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HOW
TO ORDER ANY LAND, SO
as it may reteyne all the moyſture
that falleth thereon: And to Im-
prove it thereby.



Orasmuch as the ſatneſſe of the ſoile is wa-
ſhed away, when in the winter ſeaſon the
ground is ſo wet, that every ſhowre is not
received, and drunke in by the earth
where upon it falleth, but paſſeth away,
and carieth with it the Fatneſſe, and Rich-
neſſe of the ſoyle that ſhould remayne vpon the ſuperficies
of the earth, whereby barrenneſſe doeth enſue daily, al-
though daily the *Huſbandman* doe manure and dung the
ſame. Therefore every one that would reteyne the Fat-
neſſe and Richneſſe of their owne ſoyle for their own Land,
muſt uſe meanes to reteine that, that would and doth carry
away the Richneſſe and Farnes of their ſoyle from the ſame.
And that every man may reſerve the Fatneſſe of his owne
ſoyle for his owne Land, it is neceſſary to uſe and praſtiſe
theſe points of Huſbandrie hereafter declared. As firſt to
mound his Land with bankes in every place where the wa-
ter may have vent, and Current from of the ſame; ſecondly,
to turne the vent and Current of all Land. waters into his
owne ground, out from the high wayes, waſt-grounds, and
Commons belonging to or lying neere his owne Land, and
if theſe two ſhall not be found Remedies ſufficient, I ſhall
hereafter declare ſome other. I know the latter is praſtiſed
a little by ſome, but it is ſo little that it is to little purpoſe;
For what availeth it for a man to let the water in at one
A place

place, and to let it goe out at a thousand, but every man re-
teynning all the water that falleth upon his owne ground,
shall in short time finde it very avaiable, for if this kinde
of husbandrie onely were but used halfe the time that it
hath beene neglected, men should finde their Lands to
bee greatly Improved by the same, the which every one
may easily doe, and that to their owne great profit and ad-
vantage and to the profit and advantage also of their farre
Remote neighbours.

For if every one doe but consider how divers grounds
hath beene much Improved by watering, and overflowing
the same neere unto Rivers, that in former times have
beene but little worth, then they cannot deny, but that they
also in high grounds may improve their Land by water-
ing and overflowing the same, and that they may overflow
it by stopping the vents and Currents of the water that
shall fall upon the same. when they shall bring the land-
water upon the same from their owne Corne Feilds, high-
wayes, and other wast grounds and Commons.

Also, then will not their farre Remote neighbors, that
use to bee annoyed with floods, and others that live in
Fenne Countreies, bee so much annoyed with water as
commonly they are, nay, if every one did but truely, and
duely observe and practise this kind of Husbandry, they
would not be annoyed at all: and therefore it must needs
bee advantagious and profitable for those that live in *Fen-
ny* Countreies, and others in the vale Countreies that are
annoyed with Floods, as well as for those that live upon
hilles and high grounds.

Now how easily it may bee effected, may any one soone
understand, that can but understand how easily mischeifes
may bee prevented, when they are prevented at the first aris-
ing and beginning before they come to a head, and how
easily

easily an Inconvenience may bee helped when every man shall put to their helping hands any one may judge. Wee know that the many sparkes of fire in Towne and Citty, so long as they are kept within bounds are service able, and there is no dammage or danger susteyned by them; but if by misfortune or negligence they get out of their bounds what disasters doe they cause. Even so the many drops that doe fall in a Countrey if they should bee kept within bounds in the severall Closes and Lordships wherein they fall, they would be serviceable, and advantagious, which other wayes destroy whole Feilds of Corne, breake downe Bridges, drowne Cattle, and sometime overturne houses, and worke much other mischeifes also, for we may all very well know, it is never well with *England* when the Corne in the golden vales of *England* is destroyed through floods, now as the Husbandman may easily reteyne all the water that falleth upon his owne ground for his owne profit, and advantage, in his severall enclosures, so may he as easily open a vent for his water at any time if there be cause and let it out from one Close, wherein there is no need, or where it may be harmful, and bring it into another wherein it may doe good, and where there may bee great need thereof: now if there be any that cannot conceyue how or which way this point of husbandry may be effected with great facility and ease: let them but repaire unto the Author, or unto his Assignes; and they will after taking view of their land show how easily it may be done.

How to prepare barraine Land that yeeldeth no profits, for the Improoving of it, and how to make it Fertill.

THe first thing to be done when you would improve your barraine dry ground, is where it is levell, or where it can be easily brought to a levell, to mound it about

in square plots & Cloſes, or other wayes, as it ſhal be found moſt convenient with bankes. In ſuch manner as that you may reteyne, and keepe all the water or moiſture within the bounds thereof that ſhall fall upō it, or that may ariſe from Snow, or that may otherwiſe be brought upon the ſame.

Thus when it is well bounded, and mounded with bankes may you dung it well, or manure it in what ſort you like beſt, and you ſhall be ſure not to looſe any part of your dung or manure through haſtie and ſudden ſhowers, that commonly doth waſh away a great part thereof.

But when it is dunged well, and well ſoked with moyſture, or when it is in a manner overflowen; then to manure it with dung or other Fat carſh in the Manuring barrow will mightily improve it, for the drawing of the manuring barrow up and downe, and the trampling of the ground when it is ſo moyſt, or overflowen, will increaſe your manure, and dung exceedingly: For no man can be Ignorant, how trampling, Carting, and ſuch like actions in wet weather, and when the ground is wet doth increaſe myre and dirt exceedingly in any place: Yet ſome may obiect, why then are not Foot-pathes, and High-wayes more Fertile then other places, being they are more frequently trampled, and travailed upon then other places are. Vnto whom I anſwere, if highwayes and Footpathes were trampled, and travailed on onely in wet weather, and when they are wet, they would be farre more Richer in ſoyle and more fertile then they are; for as trampling and travailing in wet weather increaſeth ſoyle and Dirt, ſo in dry weather trampling and travailing wareth and waſteth away both the Dirt and ſoyle, and cauſeth Barrenneſſe and yet how many wayes and pathes alſo if they ſhould not be yearly ſupplied with gravell, and ſuch other barren, and durable

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durable materials would grow Impassable through myre & soyle. Also although trampling and trauieling is good to improoue ground, yet continuall trampling, and trauieling is hurtfull to ground, because it hindereth the growth of thegrasse, and yet in Heathes, and Commons, where are pathes, and tracks that are but seldome trampled, is no heath, yet is there grasse, and more would there bee if they were not overlayd with sheepe, and Cattle, and trampled more in dry weather, then in wet that keeps it under, and hinders the growth thereof.

Again, to manure ground that is dinged when it is wet, with the Manuring barrow trimmed also with dung, or other Fat earth, or soyle, will increase other manner of soyle and Dirt, then bare trampling or trauieling will, and also it will improoue it more. If there be any that thinke drowning and overflowing of ground will not improoue it, because in some places they are faine to cut Furrowes and trenches to draine the same, let them inquire of those who have used the overflowing of ground that lyeth by Rivers, and have improoved the same, and use it yearly. Indeed arable ground when it is sowed should haue Furrowes, and trenches to draine the same, because too much moysture is hurtfull to most kinde of graine; and therefore they should make their Furrowes so, as that the Raine that falleth upon their Cornfields, may haue vent and Current into their pasture ground and lay Feilds, and then they may there environ it so with a banke, as that it may not any wayes breake forth of the same. Thus therefore, if it be one, two, three, foure, or five Acres, or more that you would improoue, thus you may order and prepare it, and improoue it, and unto any who willeth or desireth to learne more, I will yet shew him diuers more excellent ways.

*The severall benefits that will arise from Mounding of
ground with bankes and stopping of Currents
of Land waters.*

IT will mitigate the great Floods, If it cau-
eth them not to cease altogether, that so annoy-
eth the Fennie Countreyes and other places.
It will improve high grounds, and cause plen-
ty, and prevent dearth and scarcity:

It will Increase the old Springs, and make new Springs
to breake forth, and arise in divers places, and that especi-
ally, If having more Land-water in any place then can be
reteyned vpon the same, they make deepe pits or wells for
the same to Run into; or if they turne the Current of their
water vnto their dry and thirstie Lands, that will receive
and drinke in all.

Hereby also, they may store themselves with water in
the dry and upland Countreyes against the summer times
and dry seasons, where they haue any gravelly, or Clay
Ground.

*Arguments shewing whither this point of Husbandry bee
possible and profitable or no.*

BEcause a man cannot speake of any new
wayes or points in Husbandry, but divers
well experienced men, doe perfectly judge
the same to be Impossible, or else unpro-
fitable. I will heere breifly discusse these
two Questions: that so every one that
will, may conceive how possible and profitable they may
bee: First, to shew the possibility thereof, let any one place
a leaking vessell in the raine, where no spoutes may runne
into

into the same, and see if it will ever be filled with the raine that shall descend therein; For all sorts of ground will not hold water, and may bee compared to leaking vessels, except onely the gravelly, and the Clay ground; so that if men doe but banke their ground a little to keepe the water that falleth thereon upon the same, It will not long abide, if it should descēd never so fast vnlesse it be in gravelly and Clay grounds. And here I know many will say they cannot practise this point of husbandry without damnsifying themselves, because of necessity where there is no dry thir-
sty Land neere, and abundance of Clay or gravelly ground altogether in one place, they must needs drowne some of their owne ground if they should stop the vent and Current of the water, and reteyne all that falleth thereon upon the same, unto which I answere, although men in some places should drowne 3 or foure Acres in an hundred Acres, yet they cannot be damnsified thereby, because those who know what a pond of an Acre, or more is worth, cannot be ignorant that 3, or 4, Acres of Land thus drowned in some places, may yeeld more commodity then ten Acres of dry Land that is worth 30. shillings the Acre.

Againe for the generall, better is it to have some hundreds of Acres drowned, and made Fish-pooles, then to have many thousands of Acres lye barraine, and unfruitfull.

And that such places will be as storehowses for water against the summer times and dry seasons, no man can deny, for whereas I have spokē of watering of ground in dry seasons where water is to be had, and some have asked how they should provide water, here is one way, whereby they may provide water in hilly Countreys, and high grounds farre off from Rivers; And although it may be impossible for any one man to reteyne the water within his owne ground

ground that falleth in many mens Lands; yet is it possible for every one to retyne the water that shall fall within his owne ground. And therefore not Impossible.

A brisfe Answer vnto what may be objected: or hath beene objected.

I Know many there bee, that will say they know many more excellent points of husbandry, then yet hath beene discovered by mee, and I must confesse, I know many particular Husbandmen that doe conceive, and understand these secrets in husbandry, that generally is not conceived, nor understood by many that use husbandry, the which I have forborne to treat of, because I would not seeme to discover, what I know to bee understood, and practized by any one already, although I am not ignorant of the same; and that diuers husbandmen and others, doe know diuers more excellent poynts then hath been discovered, I will beleeve. For I my selfe know many more excellent poynts then I have yet discovered, and yet I know and beleeve that diuers that shall succeed vnto this generation shall know, & understand, and discover more, then shall be vnderstood, and discovered by any one in this generation. Now to avoid further Controversies; If there be any that shall thinke, or object, that any one point herein discovered, is vnpossible, unprofitable, or not worth the practizing, let them but help the Author vnto any barraine Land and they shall soone see the contrary prooved, for their satisfaction.

And whereas some I know will be apt to object, That the water lying upon the ground in the winter season, will breed Rushes, and Sedges; I answer, the Manuring barrow (if it be trimmed and used as it may bee) will keepe the ground from bearing of Rushes and Sedges; and also it will kill both Rushes and Sedges in any ground that is naturally inclined thereunto.



T Deptford in Kent, within
four miles of London,

Shall bee Discovered divers severall plaine,
and easie wayes never yet conceived nor
practised by any Husbandman, to Improve
any manner of barraine Land, although the
same bee not worth Twelve-pence the Acre, and to make thereof
good Fertile ground, worth X, xx, xxx, or XL. shillings the Acre.

Also to kill and destroy Heath, Brakes, Mosse, or any other noy-
some Weeds, or Shrubs, and to make the said ground to become
good Meddow, or Pasture ground without ever Plowing of the
same.

The partie will either take the sayd barraine Land himselfe, and
Improve it at his owne charge, or otherwise he will discover to the
owners, or tennants thereof; how they may manure, and Improve it
at least tenne severall wayes unto those values as are aforesaid to their
great profit and advantage, and the publike good.

The poore and such as have neither money nor stocke of Cattell to
helpe to support themselves, may bee taught divers easie and profitable
wayes to improve a reasonable quantity of any barraine Land for their
necessary maintenance without money.

Hee liveth at the first House in Butt-lane neere to the upper
Stile in Bromfield at lower Deptford.

Soli gloria Deo : Inepti incredulis Infamia.

Cum Privilegio :

Vivat Rex.

By Iohn Shavv.